

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

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INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CY, TU

SUBJ: TURKISH PRESS COVERAGE OF RESUMPTION OF DENKTASH-CLERIDES
TALKS

1. TWO LEADING TURKISH DAILIES (MILLIYET AND CUMHURIYET) GAVE FAIRLY
PROMINENT COVERAGE DECEMBER 20 TO REPORTS OF EXPECTED RESUMPTION
OF DENKTASH-CLERIDES TALKS IN CYPRUS.

2. MILLIYET REPORTED THAT THE TALKS HAD RESUMED IN NICOSIA,
WITH CLERIDES BEING AUTHORIZED FULL NEGOTIATING POWERS BY ARCHBISHOP
MAKARIOS. AT FIRST, THE TALKS WOULD COVER HUMANITARIAN ISSUES
AND PRACTICAL PROBLEMS, ACCORDING TO THE PAPER, AND THEN WOULD MOVE
ON TO BROADER ISSUES.

3. CUMHURIYET, UNDER HEADLINE "ATHENS HAS ACCEPTED A GEOGRAPHICAL
FEDERATION ON CYPRUS," REPORTED THAT THE CONTACTS IN BRUSSELS
BETWEEN SECRETARY KISSINGER AND THE TURKISH AND GREEK FOREIGN
MINISTERS YIELDED POSITIVE RESULTS, AND THE DENKTASH-CLERIDES
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TALKS WOULD OFFICIALLY RESUME AFTER CLERIDES HAS PRESENTED THE

DOCUMENTS AUTHORIZING HIM TO NEGOTIATE ON BEHALF OF THE GREEK CYPRIOTS. THE FIRST SUBJECTS TO BE DISCUSSED WOULD BE THE FAMAGUSTA PORT AND THE NICOSIA AIRPORT, FOLLOWED BY POLITICAL TALKS ON THE ORGANIZATION OF THE CYPRUS STATE, ACCORDING TO CUMHURIYET. ECMEL BARUTCU, HEAD OF THE CYPRUS OFFICE IN THE TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTRY, REPORTEDLY WENT TO NICOSIA SECRETLY TO CONVEY TURKISH VIEWS TO DENKTASH PRIOR TO THE RESUMPTION OF TALKS.

4. CUMHURIYET ALSO REPORTS A NEW YORK TIMES STORY TO THE EFFECT THAT THE SITUATION IS PRESENTLY MORE FAVORABLE THAN AT ANY OTHER TIME FOR THE RESUMPTION OF TALKS IN CYPRUS.

5. COMMENT: FIRST TWO STORIES APPEAR TO BE BASED ON SOURCES WITHIN THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT. THE ACTUAL MEETING BETWEEN DENKTASH AND CLERIDES ON DECEMBER 19 MAY HAVE OCCURRED TOO LATE TO MEET THE DEADLINES OF OTHER TURKISH PAPERS.
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